

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM**



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To: VFC Providers
From: Elizabeth LeLacheur, *Lin* Acting Section Supervisor Immunization Section
Date: 10/10/2008
Re: New VFC Vaccines

I am pleased to announce the addition of 3 new vaccines to the VFC program:

- **DTaP/IPV/Hib** – tradename Pentacel®, licensed for the first four doses of the DTaP series. As long as the Hib shortage is in effect, this vaccine can not be used for the fourth dose. Clinics must choose either this combination or the DTaP/IPV/HepB- Pediarix®.
- **DTaP/IPV** – tradename Kinrix®, licensed for the fifth dose of the DTaP series. You need to use existing doses of DTaP and IPV before you order this product. We do not want the single vaccine doses to go to waste.
- **2 dose Rotavirus vaccine**- tradename Rotarix®, you must choose one Rotavirus vaccine. If a clinic chooses to switch to the 2-dose series, existing doses of the 3-dose vaccine will need to be used.

Enclosed, please find a new order blank and Monthly Vaccine Report Form. Additional copies of these forms can be found at <http://immunization.mt.gov>. Please discard all old forms.

Additional guidelines to go with each new type of vaccine include:

HIB Vaccine- DTaP/IPV/Hib- Pentacel® is included in the state's monthly Hib allocation. CDC still has not recommended the use of the booster dose (4th dose) of Hib vaccine. We expect clinics to reduce their stocks of single antigen Hib and DTaP/IPV/HepB (Pediarix®) before ordering DTaP/IPV/Hib (Pentacel®). For the last 9 months, Carolyn has been placing Hib orders for your clinic based on your average Hib vaccine usage and your stock on hand. You will need to start placing your own Hib orders again beginning with your November order. You may need to order Hib monthly until supplies increase.

Influenza Vaccine- We need your clinic to account for its influenza vaccine usage on the Monthly Vaccine Report Form. It could affect the amount of vaccine you are allotted next year if it looks like your clinic did not use any influenza vaccine this year.

Rotavirus Vaccine: The ACIP has published interim guidelines for the use and interchangeability of Rotavirus Vaccines. Rotateq® is to be administered orally in a 3-dose series with doses given at ages 2, 4, and 6 months. Rotarix® is to be administered orally in a 2-dose series with doses given at ages 2 and 4 months. The first dose of rotavirus vaccine should be administered from age 6 weeks through age 14 weeks 6 days (the maximum age for the first dose is 14 weeks 6 days). Vaccination should not be initiated for infants after 15 weeks of age. The minimum interval between doses of rotavirus vaccine is 4 weeks. All doses should be administered before age 8 months.

ACIP recommends that the rotavirus vaccine series be completed with the same product whenever possible. However, vaccination should not be deferred if the product used for previous doses is not available or is unknown. In this situation, the provider should continue or complete the series with the product available. If any dose in the series is unknown, a total of three doses of rotavirus vaccine should be given.